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***Unique new “NO-Dig” sewer rehabilitation lining process installed for
Wessex Water in the United Kingdom***

Aqualiner Limited, a company commercialising a unique next generation trenchless pipelining technology for the water and sewerage markets, and Onsite Central Ltd, a leading water rehabilitation contractor announce that “the first in the world” commercial installation of Aqualiners MIPP™ (Melt in Place Pipe) liner has been completed for Wessex Water in Portland, Dorset, United Kingdom.

Julian Britton, who is responsible for all “No-Dig” solutions in Wessex Water, said: “We are pleased to bring new innovations to the market that benefits our customers. Furthermore, as this is Aqualiner’s first commercial project it will mark a significant milestone for MIPP technology.”

This new structural stand alone liner, comprising of glass fibres reinforced Polypropylene, is totally environmentally friendly as it involves no hazardous chemicals/resins and uses the minimal amount of power to install. The liner is very thin, minimising any loss of hydraulic capacity, yet strong enough to withstand all the internal pressure and external ground loads thereby extending the life of the pipe for upto 60 years.

Aqualiner’s MIPP structural lining process has been developed in Loughborough, UK, to be deployed in gravity sewers pipes, rising sewer mains, and drinking (potable) water pipes. It is believed that incorporating all these applications from one lining product is exceptional because of its versatility. Launching the product initially into the gravity sewer market has scope for significant market penetration. However, the management of Aqualiner believes the real commercial opportunity is in the refurbishment of ageing drinking water pipelines.

Installation

The first commercial MIPP was installed along Castle Road, part of the main one-way system serving traffic entering and leaving Portland Bill, UK. Any work that disrupts the traffic flow could have very serious consequences for the local population and businesses.

According to OnSite’s senior contract engineer Richard Wortley, “To complete this same project using traditional open cut techniques would have required somewhere in the region of 7 to 10 days and would cause much greater traffic disruptions with noise and environmental impact to the local population on a major scale. In the event, the lining installation process began at about 10.00 am and was completed by 12.15 pm, just 2 hours and 15 minutes, a major step forward for innovation in the trenchless market.”

Aqualiner sees the key benefits for a contractor as including:

- Aqualiner’s MIPP structural liners have a virtually unlimited shelf life and do not require liquid resins impregnated into the lining thus reducing Health and Safety concerns to the public and contractors installing the product.
- Compared to many other traditional pipe-lining techniques it has a smaller foot print potentially requiring only 2 vehicles on site. Waste materials may be re-cycled and not sent to expensive hazardous waste sites.

Following reporting the success of the Portland lining, Aqualiner and Onsite are currently discussing further installations with many of the UK’s water companies.

Commenting, Dec Downey, Chairman of the Aqualiner, stated "Very simply, this is a key milestone for Onsite and Aqualiner in the planned roll out of the product in the UK. We, at Aqualiner, are extremely excited by the significant global commercial implications having achieved our first customer installation."

Aqualiner's MIPP is a product of reinforced thermoplastic liner 150-300mm formed within the pipe by the application of heat and pressure to a woven fabric tube formed from co-mingled polypropylene and glass fibres. Heat supplied from an electrically powered air driven heating pig raises the temperature of the fabric to above 200 Degrees Centigrade, the thermoplastic melts around the oriented glass fibres and pressure is applied using a removable silicon inversion bag to position and consolidate the composite liner tightly against the pipe wall. It is a very simple process meeting the requirements prescribed by the stakeholders, the factory made liner requires no mixing and impregnation, no chemicals which could leach hazardous radicals into the water. It is melted and consolidated to form a thin high strength liner able to perform as a stand alone AWWA Class 4 liner, a fully structural replacement for the existing pipe, rapidly installed with a minimum of excavation.

About Aqualiner Limited

Aqualiner Limited ("Aqualiner") has an exclusive licence (worldwide, excluding Scandinavia) on a patented process to commercialise a specialist pipelining technology for the water and sewerage markets. The process is a trenchless repair technique and has been developed by a consortium consisting of: Severn Trent Water, Anglian Water, Yorkshire Water, NCC Construction Danmark A/S and EPL Composite Solutions Limited.

The self contained Aqualiner equipment, lines the water or sewerage pipe with a thin but extremely strong thermoplastic polymer composite. The key benefits over existing methods are:

- Trenchless - no major excavations required, leading to reduced disruption to the existing infrastructure.
- Simple - no complicated storing and mixing of chemicals.
- Potable (no harmful chemicals to leach out of the liner).
- High strength (a structural liner that can take mains water pressure, soil and traffic loads in its own right).
- Thin – its impact on pipe cross sectional area is minimal and its smooth surface may increase hydraulic efficiency.

About OnSite

OnSite who is part of South Staffordshire Plc's Water Waste Division is a highly respected UK based specialist water and waste water company. Initially Insight Surveys Ltd, formed in 1977, became part of the group in December 1997 and was re-branded as OnSite two years later. OnSite's head office is in Worcester, and has regional offices/depots in the UK at Worksop (Notts) and Denny (near Falkirk in Scotland). The Sewer & Pipe Rehabilitation Division is based in Challow, Oxfordshire and a sister company Perco based in Northampton OnSites. Details maybe obtained at www.onsite.co.uk or by telephoning 0044 (0) 1235 772882

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